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10/811,017

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James Jolly Clark

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EXAMINER

JARRETT, RYAN A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2121

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DELIVERY MODE

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/811,017 | Applicant(s) CLARK ET AL. | |
| | Examiner Ryan A. Jarrett | Art Unit 2121 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 January 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 34-61 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 35-38, 40-47, 49-52 and 54-61 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 34, 39, 48 and 53 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>05/07/04, 06/04/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election without traverse of claims 34, 39, 48, and 53 in the reply filed on 01/07/08 is acknowledged.

Claims 35-38, 40-47, 49-52, and 54-61 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 01/07/08.

It is noted that claims 1-33 were cancelled by Applicant in the reply filed 01/07/08.

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement filed 06/04/04 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2), which requires a legible copy of each cited foreign patent document; each non-patent literature publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed. It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered.

The information disclosure statement filed 06/04/04 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(1), which requires the following: (1) a list of all patents, publications, applications, or other information submitted for consideration by the Office; (2) U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications listed in a section separately from citations of other documents; (3) the application number of the application in which the information disclosure statement is being submitted on each page of the list; (4) a column that provides a blank space next to each

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document to be considered, for the examiner's initials; and (5) a heading that clearly indicates that the list is an information disclosure statement. The information disclosure statement has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered.

Specification

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it does not appear to fully pertain to the elected invention. For example, the abstract makes mention of an infrared receiver, infrared transceiver, and portable device. But none of these items are in the elected claims. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 34, 39, 48, and 53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Moore et al. US 2004/0039489 (“Moore”). Moore discloses:

34. A water irrigation system, comprising:

irrigation equipment (e.g., Fig. 1 #122,124);

a computer system (e.g., Figs. 1-2 #120); **wherein the computer system is configured to control the irrigation equipment to irrigate an irrigation zone based on a programmed irrigation schedule** (e.g., [0043]: “the watering schedule”), **wherein the programmed irrigation schedule is at least partially based on the region where the irrigation zone is located** (e.g., [0097]-[0098]);

at least one sensing unit configured to assess an amount of moisture in an irrigation zone (e.g., Fig. 2 #117, Figs. 5L-5K #174, [0097]: “local rain”, [0118]-[0119]: “onsite tipping bucket rain gauge 174”);

wherein the computer system is configured to inhibit irrigation of the irrigation one when an assessed amount of moisture exceeds a predetermined amount (e.g., [0053], [0097], [0118]-[0119]: “rainfall can also be programmed to interrupt a watering cycle”); and

at least one receiver coupled to the computer system (e.g., Figs. 1-2 #116), wherein the receiver is configured to receive community irrigation instructions generated for the region and send the community irrigation instructions to the computer system (e.g., [0052]-[0062]), wherein the community irrigation instructions override the programmed irrigation schedule (e.g., [0043]: “improve the watering schedule”, [0132]).

39. The system of claim 34, wherein the community irrigation instructions result in one or more of the following actions: termination of an irrigation cycle, reduction in duration of an irrigation cycle, reduction in frequency of an irrigation cycle, rescheduling of an irrigation cycle, and initiation of an irrigation cycle (e.g., [0043], [0132]).

48. A method of controlling irrigation of an irrigation zone, comprising:

providing a programmed irrigation schedule to a water irrigation system (e.g., [0043]: “the watering schedule”), wherein the programmed irrigation schedule is at least partially based on the region where the irrigation zone is located (e.g., [0097]-[0098]), the water irrigation system comprising:

irrigation equipment (e.g., Fig. 1 #122,124);

a computer system (e.g., Figs. 1-2 #120); wherein the computer system is configured to control irrigation equipment to irrigate an irrigation zone based on the programmed irrigation schedule (e.g., [0043]: “the watering schedule”);

at least one sensing unit configured to assess an amount of moisture in an irrigation zone (e.g., Fig. 2 #117, Figs. 5L-5K #174, [0097]: “local rain”, [0018]-[0019]: “onsite tipping bucket rain gauge 174”); and

at least one receiver coupled to the computer system (e.g., Figs. 1-2 #116), wherein the receiver is configured to receive remote irrigation instructions and send the remote irrigation instructions to the computer system (e.g., Figs. 1-2);

assessing an amount of moisture in an irrigation zone (e.g., [0053], [0097], [0118], [0119]);

inhibiting irrigation of the irrigation zone when an assessed amount of moisture exceeds a predetermined amount (e.g., [0053], [0097], [0118]-[0119]: “rainfall can also be programmed to interrupt a watering cycle”);

receiving community irrigation instructions generated for the region (e.g., [0052]-[0062]);

overriding the programmed irrigation schedule based on the community irrigation instructions (e.g., [0043]: “improve the watering schedule”, [0132]).

53. The method of claim 48, wherein the community irrigation instructions result in one or more of the following actions: termination of an irrigation cycle, reduction in duration

of an irrigation cycle, reduction in frequency of an irrigation cycle, rescheduling of an irrigation cycle, and initiation of an irrigation cycle (e.g., [0043], [0132]).

Claims 34, 39, 48, and 53 are additionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Vaello US 5,465,904 (“Vaello”). Vaello discloses:

34. A water irrigation system, comprising:

irrigation equipment (e.g., Fig. 4 #12,14);

a computer system (e.g., Fig. 4 #10,30); wherein the computer system is configured to control the irrigation equipment to irrigate an irrigation zone based on a programmed irrigation schedule, wherein the programmed irrigation schedule is at least partially based on the region where the irrigation zone is located (e.g., Fig. 4 #16,18);

at least one sensing unit configured to assess an amount of moisture in an irrigation zone (e.g., Fig. 4 #24,36);

wherein the computer system is configured to inhibit irrigation of the irrigation one when an assessed amount of moisture exceeds a predetermined amount (e.g., Fig. 4 #38, col. 7 lines 14-52); and

at least one receiver coupled to the computer system (e.g., Fig. 4 #34), wherein the receiver is configured to receive community irrigation instructions generated for the region and send the community irrigation instructions to the computer system, wherein the community irrigation instructions override the programmed irrigation schedule (e.g., col. 7 line 46 –col. 8 line 41).

39. The system of claim 34, wherein the community irrigation instructions result in one or more of the following actions: termination of an irrigation cycle, reduction in duration

of an irrigation cycle, reduction in frequency of an irrigation cycle, rescheduling of an irrigation cycle, and initiation of an irrigation cycle (e.g., col. 7 line 46 –col. 8 line 41).

48. A method of controlling irrigation of an irrigation zone, comprising:

providing a programmed irrigation schedule to a water irrigation system, wherein the programmed irrigation schedule is at least partially based on the region where the irrigation zone is located, the water irrigation system comprising:

irrigation equipment (e.g., Fig. 4 #12,14);

a computer system (e.g., Fig. 4 #10,30); wherein the computer system is configured to control irrigation equipment to irrigate an irrigation zone based on the programmed irrigation schedule (e.g., Fig. 4 #16,18);

at least one sensing unit configured to assess an amount of moisture in an irrigation zone (e.g., Fig. 4 #24,36); and

at least one receiver coupled to the computer system (e.g., Fig. 4 #34), wherein the receiver is configured to receive remote irrigation instructions and send the remote irrigation instructions to the computer system (e.g., col. 7 line 46 – col. 8 line 41);

assessing an amount of moisture in an irrigation zone (e.g., Fig. 4 #24,36);

inhibiting irrigation of the irrigation zone when an assessed amount of moisture exceeds a predetermined amount (e.g., Fig. 4 #38, col. 7 lines 14-52);

receiving community irrigation instructions generated for the region (e.g., col. 7 line 46 - col. 8 line 41);

overriding the programmed irrigation schedule based on the community irrigation instructions (e.g., col. 7 line 46 - col. 8 line 41).

53. The method of claim 48, wherein the community irrigation instructions result in one or more of the following actions: termination of an irrigation cycle, reduction in duration of an irrigation cycle, reduction in frequency of an irrigation cycle, rescheduling of an irrigation cycle, and initiation of an irrigation cycle (e.g., col. 7 line 46 –col. 8 line 41).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ryan A. Jarrett whose telephone number is (571) 272-3742. The examiner can normally be reached on 10:00-6:30 M-F.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/ Ryan A. Jarrett/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2121

03/10/08